

SECRET

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Tab A to
USIB-D-2, 1/2
5 January 1959
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

USIB Use of the White House Security Switchboard

1. The installation of ~~white~~ telephones connected with the "White House Security Switchboard" into the homes of USIB principals has been completed. Arrangements also have been completed to have the telephone company bill the USIB subscribers at their business offices in care of their official office designations.
2. The White House Security Switchboard has not been approved for the transmission of classified matter in the clear. The system utilizes commercial telephone trunk lines.
3. The system is described in the attachment from the White House Communications Office. In short, this switchboard offers a personalized emergency service by which a subscriber can quickly contact another government official or issue a conference order that may involve any combination of white telephones, departmental telephones and private telephones. This system has a normal capacity to permit 10 parties to hold a conference. Under the N CRASH system all USIB subscribers' phones may be rung simultaneously to call a conference. In extraordinary circumstances the security switchboard can handle a conference of up to 15 subscribers, but such extraordinary conferences are monitored by Signal Corps personnel at the White House Center.
4. To utilize this system the subscriber should contact the White House security switchboard by picking up his ~~white~~ phone or by dialing STerling 3-0333 from other telephones, and give the Signal Corps operator the name or names of the persons with whom he wishes to speak. The Signal Corps operator, using all the information at his disposal, will then attempt to make the necessary contacts. The operator will seek temporary forwarding

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addresses from the subscriber's home or will accept such addresses as are phoned into the White House security switchboard in advance. It is emphasized that the telephone number for the White House security switchboard is unlisted and knowledge is generally restricted to subscribers and to a few selected members of their staffs.

5. Recommendations:

a. That each USIB principal submit to the Executive Secretary of USIB, for forwarding to the White House Communications Center, the names of one or two alternates who are authorized to use the White House security switchboard for purposes of calling a conference.

b. That the Intelligence Duty Officer or Watch Officer for each USIB agency be given the White House security board number (STerling 3-0333) and government code (1210) and instructed that this system may be used in an emergency to contact any USIB member or members in the event that normal facilities are not available.

c. That USIB members individually take appropriate actions to ensure that the Signal Corps operators can locate them or their alternates for such conferences as may be necessary.

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**THE WHITE HOUSE
COMMUNICATION CENTER**

MEMORANDUM FOR : All Subscribers (White House Security Switch-Board)

SUBJECT : Purpose and Operation of Branch Telephone

GENERAL

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to familiarize the subscriber with the capabilities, limitations, purpose and operation of the Security Switchboard Branch (extension) telephone.

2. The Security phone has been installed for the express purpose of providing a means of direct emergency communications between the White House and the subscriber. For this reason the Security Switchboard number is **UNLISTED** and should not be given out. The extension should not be used for personal calls or for routine business when another telephone would suffice.

SECURITY BOARD

1. The Security Board is a telephone switchboard, manned by U. S. Army Signal Corps personnel, located in the White House and providing the President with expeditious direct communications with various Agencies and individuals directly concerned with the National Security.

2. Teams of these highly skilled Signal Corps technicians always accompany the President on trips. Therefore, the Chief, Executive and Commander-in-Chief is never more than "the telephone away" from all subscribers and the rest of the world.

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RADIO PHONE PATCH

1. The ^{Signal} Security Board is equipped with phone patch facilities. By means of this equipment any White House vehicle or Presidential aircraft may, via radio, talk with any subscriber.
2. In the event a phone patch is placed to or from your extension, the instructions of the ^{Signal} Security Board operator must be carefully followed since the two-way car radios do not allow "break-in" operation.

CONFERENCE CALLS

1. The ^{Signal} Security Board is equipped with Conference Facilities. By means of these facilities up to ten subscribers may be connected together for the purpose of conducting formal discussions via telephone.
2. The number of conferees should be limited insofar as is practical, since a large number of conferees plus long "line distances" may materially decrease the fidelity and volume of the transmitted voice signals.

CRASH SYSTEM

1. One position of the ^{Signal} Security Board is utilized for various emergency CRASH systems whereby the operator may ring all phones on a given system simultaneously. This enables the calling party to talk to all subscribers on any system or combination of systems at once, or allows the operator to repeatedly transmit a prepared recording--such as an emergency warning--until all subscribers have answered.
2. The activation of a CRASH call will automatically cut off any conversation taking place over any of the affected phones.
3. All members of the United States Intelligence Board are on the N CRASH System.

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APPROVED CIRCUIT

1. An Approved (Secure) Circuit is one which has been approved for the transmission of classified matter in the clear.

2. The ~~Security~~ Switchboard IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH APPROVED CIRCUITS. No classified information will be discussed over these lines either on a two-party or a conference call. On a radio phone patch, the names of individuals or other unclassified data of a "need to know" nature should not be mentioned.

LONG DISTANCE CALLS

1. While the purpose of the Security Branch telephone was clearly stated in paragraph 2, GENERAL, of this memorandum, service to subscribers will not be denied by the operator. However, any long distance call must be placed by the operator, for recording purposes, and not by the subscriber.

16 December 1958

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Item 13, USIB-M-13, 25 Nov 1958

13. White House Security Switchboard
Service for USIB Members

The Chairman advised the members as to certain arrangements that had been initiated to provide the Board members with White House security switchboard service, to facilitate communication by Board members with each other and with other high government officials.